

Message Text

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DOE FOR HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, TGEN, TECH, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF BILATERAL SCIENCE
COOPERATION

1. SOVIET HALF-HOUR TV PROGRAM ON ELECTRIFICATION BROADCAST NATIONALLY EVENING OF MARCH 21, GAVE EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO ENERGY BILATERAL. A SEGMENT OF PROGRAM WAS DEVOTED TO INTERVIEW OF DEPUTY SECRETARY O'LEARY BY YURIY FOKIN AT MINPOWER DURING DECEMBER 1977 JCM. PRAVDA CARRIED SHORT PIECE ON START-UP OF MHD U-25 LOOP ON MARCH 19 WHICH NOTED U.S. SUPER-CONDUCTING MAGNET WAS PROVIDED FOR EXPERIMENT. ALSO SHOWN ON NATIONAL TV DURING THIS MONTH WAS A CEREMONY IN WHICH SCICOUNS ACCEPTED SAMPLE OF MAMMOTH TISSUE AT ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

2. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, FEBRUARY 24 NOVOSTI DAILY REVIEW CARRIED LONG ARTICLE UNDER SCST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI'S NAME ON SOVIET INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELA-
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TIONSHIPS WHICH CRITICIZED SOME ASPECTS OF US-USSR SCIENCE RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE GENERALLY POSITIVE IN TONE ARTICLE STATES, INTER ALIA, THAT "COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES IS NOT TO THE TASTE OF EXTREME REACTIONARY CIRCLES . . ." AND "USA ADMINISTRATION TOOK A NUMBER OF DRASIC MEASURES TO LIMIT THE SCOPE AND THEMES OF JOINT RESEARCH CARRIED OUT UNDER THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL

AGREEMENTS." WHEN ASKED BY SCICOUNS FOR BACKGROUND ON THESE REMARKS, SCST AMERICAN DESK CHIEF AYKAZYAN RESORTED TO LAME EXCUSE THAT THESE WERE NOT GVISHIANI'S THOUGHTS AT ALL, AND THAT GVISHIANI WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH THE BILATERALS. HE EXPLAINED THAT NOVOSTI ACCOUNT WAS DRAWN FROM AN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE BY GVISHIANI AND THAT NOVOSTI JOURNALIST ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGATIVE COLORATION OF THE REMARKS.

3. COMMENT - WHILE THE U.S. IS UNDER PARTICULARLY HEAVY ATTACK AT THIS TIME IN THE SOVIET MEDIA, WE FIND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT FAVORABLE COMMENT ON THE BILATERAL SCIENCE RELATIONS APPEARS FROM TIME TO TIME. THE SOVIETS MAY BE TRYING TO REASSURE THEIR DOMESTIC AUDIENCE THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION, WHICH SOVIETS VALUE FOR PRESTIGE AND SUBSTANTIVE BENEFITS, CONTINUES DESPITE THE PROPAGANDA BARRAGE. END COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN TAPE OF MARCH 21 TELECAST FOR DOE. WILL ADVISE. TOON

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